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May 5, 2000

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Using A Bell Tolls

At A Bell Tolls, we are dedicated to providing consumers and businesses accurate and helpful intelligent decisions in their quests for telecommunications nirvana. Part of that charge is not only our site meets the needs of our customers, but also committing to creating a site that is easy to use. here is a basic rundown of our site and how things work at A Bell Tolls.

- [How The Site Operates](#)
- [Using Our Rates Comparison Tables](#)
 - [Interstate / Intrastate / International / Tollfree Rates Tables](#)
 - [Calling Card Rates Tables](#)
- [Using Our Calling Plan Pages](#)
- [Getting Consumer Advice](#) to help you sort through all the lingo and identify ways that you may be able smart choices.



[COMPARE LONG DISTANCE RATES](#)



Our Rates Comparison Tables

INTERSTATE / INTRASTATE / TOLLFREE RATES TABLES:

Interstate Calling Plan	Minimum Monthly Charge	Day	Eve	Sat
A Long Distance Plan*	\$19.00	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.00
Another Long Distance Plan	\$22.00	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.00

Within each classification of rates (Intrastate, Interstate, International, Calling Cards, Toll comparison table much like the one above. Each row in the table represents a single long d plan. One company may offer several different calling plans and may have several differen tables.

Tables can be sorted by any column by clicking the column header. For example, you can [Minimum Monthly Charges](#) by clicking the words "Minimum Monthly Charge" at the top

Rates are listed based on a per-minute charge and are formatted as cents unless otherwise Charges is the exception and is generally presented as a dollar amount.

The Amounts You See in our tables may not match those that you hear or see advertised. hidden fees and taxes which increase the actual cost per-minute to you the caller. A Bell T hidden costs into account when calculating and reporting rates. This can be a complicated t many companies have plans whose rates vary depending on the length of a call. A Bell To what the cost would be to the average user. If you are a low or high volume user, meaning or a whole lot of calls, the rates may vary slightly.

Calling Plan: This column shows the name and provider of a long distance calling plan. C

link you to more information about that plan.

Minimum Monthly Charges: This column indicates the minimum amount you will have to pay each month for using its service. This amount may include PICC/USF Fees, Monthly Service Charges, Monthly Minimum any other fee a provider may charge you each month for using its service. Basically, expect much per month even if you never make a phone call. Please note that additional taxes and applied by either or both the long distance provider and the local service provider. These t increase the actual minimum amount charged to you per month and will vary depending o long distance service providers. Visit our Understanding Monthly Charges page for more i this.

Day / Night / Sat / Sun: Most long distance service providers break up any 24 hour or 7 d different classifications. These may include weekday daytime rates (Day), weekday evenin weekend or Saturday/Sunday rates (Sat / Sun). Plans may or may not charge different rates time or day of the week you place a call. Different plans may have different cut-off times. company may consider the daytime to be 7:00am to 7:00pm, while another may consider i 5:00pm. You will need to visit a given plan's information page in order to get that informat this by clicking on the name of the plan in the "Calling Plan" column.

Interstate Rate: This column appears on the Intrastate and International tables. Most prov intrastate and international service also offer interstate service within the structure of its ca rates for interstate calls made with a given intrastate and international plan are listed in this column.

CALLING CARD RATES TABLES:

<u>Calling Cards</u>	<u>Minimum Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Other Times</u>	<u>Per Call Surcharge</u>
A Calling Card*	\$2.00	5.10¢	5.10¢	0.00¢
Another Calling Card	\$3.00	7.30¢	7.30¢	10.00¢

Within each classification of rates (Intrastate, Interstate, International, Calling Cards, Toll comparison table much like the one above. Each row in the table represents a single long d plan. One company may offer several different calling plans and may have several differen tables.

Tables can be sorted by any column by clicking the column header. For example, you can Minimum Monthly Charges by clicking the words "Minimum Monthly Charge" at the top

Rates are listed based on a per-minute charge and are formatted as cents unless otherwise Charges is the exception and is generally presented as a dollar amount.

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Calling Plan: This column shows the name and provider of a long distance calling plan. C link you to more information about that plan.

Minimum Month ly Charges: This column indicates the minimum amount you will have to pay each month for using its service. This amount may include PICC/USF Fees, Monthly Service Charges, Monthly Minimum any other fee a provider may charge you each month for using its service. Basically, expect much per month even if you never make a phone call. Please note that additional taxes and applied by either or both the long distance provider and the local service provider. These t increase the actual minimum amount charged to you per month and will vary depending o long distance service providers. Visit our Understanding Monthly Charges page for more i this.

Day / Other Times: Most long distance service providers break up any 24 hour or 7 day classifications. These may include weekday daytime rates (Day), weekday evening rates (or Saturday/Sunday rates (Sat / Sun). Plans may or may not charge different rates depending on the day of the week you place a call. Different plans may have different cut-off times. For example, one may consider the daytime to be 7:00am to 7:00pm, while another may consider it to be 8:00am to 7:00pm. You will need to visit a given plan's information page in order to get that information. You clicking on the name of the plan in the "Calling Plan" column. For calling card plans we have less variance between these times and, therefore, list only the DAY rate separate from other times.

Per Call Surcharge: It is not uncommon for a calling card provider to charge you a small fee for using a calling card. This fee is in addition to the per-minute rates charged for the duration of the call. If a provider charges a per call surcharge, you will be charged that fee plus the cost of the phone call each time you use the calling card.

Payphone Surcharge: It is not uncommon for a calling card provider to charge you a small fee for using a calling card from a payphone. This fee is in addition to the per-minute rates charged for the duration of the call. If a provider charges a payphone surcharge, you will be charged that fee plus the cost of the phone call each time you place a call using the calling card.

Calling Plan Information Pages

A Bell Tolls maintains a Calling Plan information page for each long distance calling plan listed on our website. These pages are designed to supplement our rates tables by supplying you with more detailed information about each plan. Below is an explanation of the features and terms used on these pages. Most underlined (hyperlinks) when clicked with your mouse, will display an additional browser window with our glossary definitions.

Per-Minute / Minimum Monthly Charges Table: This table is similar to our rates comparison table.

Advertised vs. Actual: Many telecommunications providers "advertise" great rates such as "5 cents a minute with no monthly fees." The numbers listed in the **Advertised** column represent these claims. However, there are other charges that seem to mysteriously appear on your phone bill once you sign up for one of these "great" rates. The **Actual** column are A Bell Tolls' attempt to provide an accurate estimate of the true cost of a call when you use a carrier. We do this by including additional carrier specific fees such as the PICC, USF, and other surcharges that are not included in the advertised rates.

Minimum Monthly Charges: This column indicates the minimum amount you will have to pay each month for using its service. Basically, expect to pay at least this much per month even if you don't make any phone calls. Please note that additional taxes and fees may be applied by either or both the long distance service provider. These taxes and fees may increase the actual minimum amount charged to you per month depending on your local and long distance service providers. Visit our [Understanding Monthly Charges](#) page for more information about this.

Day / Time Per-Minute Rates: Most long distance service providers break up any 24 hour or 7 day classifications. These may include weekday daytime rates (Day), weekday evening rates (Night), and Saturday/Sunday rates (Sat / Sun). Plans may or may not charge different rates depending on what time you place a call. Different plans may have different cut-off times. For example, one company may consider daytime to be 7:00am to 7:00pm, while another may consider it to be 8:00am to 5:00pm. On our plan pages, we identify the time of a telephone call for each of these classifications. If a plan has rates that change depending on the time of day, we charge a different rate for the first minute than all other minutes, the different rates will be identified as such.

Odd Table On The Right: This table includes a variety of calling plan specific information and explanations of the terms in this table:

USF Percentage: This refers to the Universal Service Fund charge. Some telecommunications providers charge a percentage of your total cost of calls and other service fees. This number represents the percentage used by the provider to calculate it in this way. This fee may also appear as a flat per-month charge. Visit our [Monthly Charges](#) page for more information.

Minimum Call Length: Some telecommunications providers require that each call be at least some minimum length of time independent of whether the call lasted that long or not. This is a very common tactic used by [dial-around](#) service providers.

Billing Increment: This identifies the time increment used to determine the length of a call. Providers may use 6-seconds or some other time increment.

One-Time Enrollment Fee: Some telecommunications providers charge a one-time fee to sign up for a service.

Monthly Minimum Charges Table: This table identifies the fees and charges that make up the minimum you will owe for this plan. To best understand the terms and charges in this table please visit our [Understanding Monthly Charges](#) page.

Intra-State Rates Boxes: When the downward facing arrow is selected using your mouse, a box will display the Intra-State calling rates for this plan. Simply select the state in which you are calling and the rate will appear to the right of the state name.

Interstate Calling Card Rates Boxes: When the downward facing arrow is selected using drop-down list box will display the interstate calling card rates and fees for this plan.

Per Call Surcharge: It is not uncommon for a calling card provider to charge you a small fee each time you place a call. This fee is in addition to the per-minute rates charged for the duration of a call. If a provider charges a per-call surcharge, you will be charged that fee plus the cost of the phone call each time you place a call using the calling card.

Payphone Surcharge: It is not uncommon for a calling card provider to charge you a small fee each time you place a call from a payphone. This fee is in addition to the per-minute rates charged for the duration of a call. If a provider charges a payphone surcharge, you will be charged that fee plus the cost of the phone call each time you place a call using the calling card.

International Rates Boxes: When the downward facing arrow is selected using your mouse, the drop-down list box will display the international calling rates for this plan. Simply select the country you are interested in and the rate will appear to the right of the state name.

Tollfree Rates Boxes: When the downward facing arrow is selected using your mouse, the drop-down list box will display the tollfree rates and fees for this plan.

Special Notes About This Plan: This section includes any special information about a plan that may not be covered by our standard reporting tables.

Estimated Charges For Generalized Calling Patterns: This section offers several tables showing estimated phone charges based on some very generalized calling patterns. There are directions for using the Generalized Calling Plan information page.

Plan FAQ: This section includes commonly asked questions and answers.

Billing Methods:

Local Phone Bill: Your long distance bill will appear as a section on your local telephone service bill.

Separate Bill: You will receive a separate bill in the mail from the long distance provider.

Credit Card: The long distance provider will bill directly to a credit card. A paper bill may be mailed to you.

Online: Your bill is either posted on a secure web site or emailed to you and generally billed to your credit card.

Special Promotions: This section includes information about any special promotions related to this plan.

Consumer Advice

A Bell Tolls believes that informed consumers are the best consumers. With this in mind, we look for ways to provide you, the consumer, with helpful knowledge about the telecommunications world. The following pages are designed to help you make sense of this often confusing world.

- [How To Save On Your Long Distance Bill](#)
- [How To Read Your Phone Bill](#)
- [Understanding Monthly Fees And Charges](#)
- [How To Change Long Distance Telephone Companies](#)
- [Avoid PRE-Paid Calling Card Scams](#)
- [Disaster Planning Telecom Information](#)
- [A Bell Tolls' Glossary](#)



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• 3.9%
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OUR RATES DISCLAIMER - PLEASE READ

Welcome to A Bell Tolls impartial rates comparisons pages. Please understand that by continuing information you agree that you have read and understood our disclaimer presented below.

A Bell Tolls is not a telecommunications provider. We list the rates provided to us by telecomm providers as a public service to help consumers make the best decisions when choosing a long dist. In an effort to educate consumers, some carriers have agreed to financially support this free service happens in the following way. When a customer decides to sign up with one of these carriers, if th through A Bell Tolls we receive financial support. However, we **DO NOT** give any priority to the when listing rates and services. If a plan mentions A Bell Tolls or claims to be sponsored by A Be simply means that we act as an agent to enroll people in that plan. This role is one of a referral representative of that company.

We at A Bell Tolls pride ourselves on being unbiased in our presentation of data. Towards this en every effort to make the user aware of which companies do support this venture. For a complete li companies that choose to support A Bell Tolls [click here](#). You can help keep A Bell Tolls availabl up for one of these carriers through the links on our rates tables.

As a company, A Bell Tolls, LLC strives to provide honest and accurate information. If we believ provider to be fraudulent or to offer an unacceptable level of customer service, we will not list it. are not responsible for the actions or practices of any of the providers listed on our site. WE STR ADVISE all customers to use discretion when changing any telecommunications service. Please v page for further information.

While A Bell Tolls strives to keep its database as accurate as possible, there is no guarantee as to t accuracy, or comprehensive quality of the information contained within. If you find information t outdated/incorrect, we appreciate if you let us know via [e-mail](#) so we can make an effort to check

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Illinois Intrastate Long Distance Rate Comparison

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Please note: you can click on a column header to sort the data according to that column name.

Click on the plan name for more detailed information about that plan.

Illinois Intrastate Plans	Minimum Monthly Charge	Day	Eve	Sat	S
Working Assets 5 Cents Evenings	\$6.99	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.
Excel Telco Choice Presubscribed	\$2.39	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.
Excel Telco Choice Dialaround - (10-10-297)	\$0.86	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.00¢	5.
Buyers United - Standard	\$5.98	5.12¢	5.12¢	5.12¢	5.
Unitel Direct Billing Residential Option	\$3.53	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.
Illinois Intrastate Plans	Minimum Monthly Charge	Day	Eve	Sat	S
Unitel Direct Billing Business Option - 15	\$20.91	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.
Unitel Direct Billing Business Option	\$6.75	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.
Unitel Direct Billing Residential Option - 15	\$17.68	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.50¢	5.
GTC Telecom Business - 501	\$537.01	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
GTC Telecom Business - 1001	\$1066.51	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.

<u>Illinois Intrastate Plans</u>	<u>Minimum Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Eve</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>S</u>
<u>GTC Telecom Business - 1501</u>	\$1596.01	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>GTC Telecom Single-line business Internet Bundle</u>	\$6.45	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>GTC Telecom Residential Credit Card Billed</u>	\$1.50	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>GTC Telecom Residential LEC Bill</u>	\$3.45	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>GTC Telecom Residential Credit Card Billed Internet Bundle</u>	\$6.45	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>Illinois Intrastate Plans</u>	<u>Minimum Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Eve</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>S</u>
<u>GTC Telecom Business</u>	\$6.45	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>GTC Telecom Business - 251</u>	\$272.26	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.00¢	6.
<u>Buyers United - Saver</u>	\$5.98	6.17¢	6.17¢	6.17¢	6.
<u>Buyers United - Economy</u>	\$4.17	7.21¢	7.21¢	7.21¢	7.
<u>QWEST Q.Biz High Volume</u>	\$217.05	7.45¢	7.45¢	7.45¢	7.
<u>Illinois Intrastate Plans</u>	<u>Minimum Monthly Charge</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Eve</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>S</u>
<u>QWEST Q.Biz</u>	\$30.85	7.45¢	7.45¢	7.45¢	7.
<u>ATN TTI ULTRAcall Business</u>	\$3.97	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.
<u>ATN TTI ULTRAcall Residential</u>	\$1.46	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.
<u>Earthtones Green Saver</u>	\$5.99	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.00¢	8.
<u>AccuLinQ QuickLinQ Internet Billing</u>	\$1.00	8.22¢	8.22¢	8.22¢	8.